Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07393 261717 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 261711 Z JUN 73 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182 INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID AMEMBASSY PARIS AMCONSUL BARCELONA

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E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AN, SP, UK

SUBJECT: ANDORRA: ACCREDITATION

REF: (A) LONDON 1280 (B) MADRID 2357

- 1. FCO SPANISH DESK OFFICER (BAILLIE) CALLED US IN TODAY TO DISCUSS, AS PROMISED REF A, THE RESULTS OF FCO STUDY ON CONSULAR ACCREDITATION IN ANDORRA. AS ANTICIPATED REF B, HMG HAS DECIDED THAT BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL BARCELONA WILL OBTAIN ACCREDITATION FROM FRENCH CO-PRINCE ONLY.
- 2. BRITISH DECISION WAS BASED ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS, ACCORDING TO BAILLIE:
- (A) IT IS EASIER TO JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF ESTABLISHED PRACTICE THAN TO JUSTIFY CHANGES IN PRACTICE;
- (B) FCO WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY OTHER EUROPEAN STATE THAT HAD ACCREDITATION WITH SPANISH CO-PRINCE; (C) FRENCH HAD ASSURED BRITISH THAT FRENCH VEGUER WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY AND ALL CONSULAR PROBLEMS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 07393 261717 Z

INVOLVING UK CITIZENS THAT MIGHT ARISE; (D) BRITISH DID NOT DEEM ISSUE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT RISK OF IRRITATING FELLOW MEMBER OF EC.

- 3. BRITISH DO NOT INTEND TO TELL SPANISH THAT THEY HAVE REACHED A DECISION ON THIS QUESTION. IF QUERIED BY SPANISH, THEY INTEND TO REPLY SIMPLY THAT THEY ARE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW LONG ESTABLISHED PRACTICE.
- 4. BAILLIE SAID THAT HE HAD ARGUED IN FAVOR OF TRANS-FERRING CONSULAR JURISDICTION OF ANDORRA FROM AMCONSUL

BARCELONA TO A POST IN FRANCE, BUT THE IDEA WAS DISAPPROVED LEST WE OFFEND THE SPANISH.

5. IN CONCLUSION BAILLIE SAID THAT IF FRENCH VEGUER PROVES INCAPABLE OF HANDLING CONSULAR PROBLEMS INVOLVING UK CITIZENS. OR IF OTHER MAJOR POWERS OBTAIN ACCREDITATION FROM BOTH CO-PRINCES, THEN UK

IS READY TO REVIEW SITUATION AFRESH, BUT OTHERWISE, FOR TIME BEING, FCO REGARDS THE ISSUE AS SETTLED. ANNENBERG

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BARCELÓNA

EUR **MADRID**

PARIS SECSTATE WASHDC

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